Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement

Our Intent

At Darwen St James we want our children to be excited and engaged in Design and Technology. We want them to be aware that Design and Technology is all around them. From the classrooms they sit in, to the clothes they wear and the food they eat. Design and Technology is a part of their everyday life. Our Design and Technology curriculum will inspire children by teaching them about great designers, scientists, engineers, chefs and nutritionists.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, Design and Technology at Darwen St James encourages all children to develop their creativity, individuality and critical thinking. We want our children to use their skills and knowledge to design unique high quality prototypes and products for a range of users. We also want our children to understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

We keep the three S's in mind when designing a product.
S- Something - What is it?
S- Someone - Who is it for? Who will use it?
S- Some purpose - What is it for?

Our Design and Technology curriculum encourages children to develop skills to constructively critique, evaluate and test their work and the work of others. We want our children to actively use the school value of courage by taking risks with their work. We want them to use their Growth Mindset to show resilience and reflection.

Implementation

We use The DT Association Project on a Page and Plan Bee alongside the National Curriculum to support our planning and teaching of DT. This ensures that our children have the best opportunities. Our engaging curriculum allows for skills and progression throughout the school.

The National Curriculum for Design and Technology aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world
2. build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
3. critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others
4.understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Design and Technology is taught half termly with Art and Design. Lessons are taught weekly for a minimum of one hour. It can be more beneficial to use whole afternoons or even a whole day for Design and Technology especially when the lessons are of a more practical nature using tools and equipment. We have STEM Ambassadors who come to school to help support these lessons, offering their expertise to our children. These ambassadors are real life workers in the area of Design and Technology being taught and share valuable first hand quality, skills and experience with the children.

The areas covered in Design and Technology in school are:
EYFS - Mechanisms, Structures, Food
Year 1 - Mechanisms, Structures, Food
Year 2 - Mechanisms, Textiles, Food
Year 3 - Mechanisms, Textiles, Food
Year 4 - Structures, Electrical Systems, Food
Year 5- Mechanisms, Textiles, Food
Year 6 - Structures, Electrical Systems, Food

EYFS classes cover Design and Technology under 'Expressive Arts and Design' from the EYFS Curriculum .

Impact

Formative assessment is carried out throughout the Design and Technology lessons allowing instant feedback and allowing teachers to assess if children need to be supported or are ready for a challenge. Children are able to act on feedback, make improvements or extend their work in the lesson. Summative assessments are used at the end of each half term unit of teaching which shows a clear picture of children's achievements in that particular area of the Design and Technology Curriculum. School Governors, School Leaders and Subject Leads often visit Design and Technology lessons and talk with the children about their learning. One of the most useful assessments is pupil voice. Children are encouraged to informally chat to subject leaders about their experiences and learning in Design and Technology lessons. End of year assessments are carried out to inform the school of the percentages of children meeting expected levels. These assessments inform and help guide the planning for the next academic year.